THE THIN END OF THE WEDGE.

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The Common Cause
OF HUMANITY.

The Organ of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

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[The National Union does not hold itself responsible for opinions expressed in signed articles.]

Notes and News.

The Register Bill Fiasco.

On Wednesday the House of Commons went into Committee on the Government Bill for a new Register, but from the outset it became evident that this latest attempt to solve electoral difficulties was doomed to the failure which dogs all the attempts of Parliament to deal with the question. The Speaker, who in August had ruled that widening amendments would be in order if introduced by the method of an instruction from the House, was of a different opinion in November. He declared that further enlightenment had led him to the conclusion that all such amendments would be out of order, and it at once became apparent that this ruling had deprived the Bill of all interest and of all support. From Sir Edward Carson to Sir John Simon not a voice was raised in its favour. Mr. Asquith, who came late to the debate, did indeed make a faint attempt to defend his unfortunate bantling, but as soon as he had realised the situation he accepted a motion to report progress. He expressed his willingness to confer with Sir Edward Carson and Sir John Simon as to the best course now to be pursued, and there the matter rests for the present.

A Real Measure of Reform Wanted.

There is something ludicrous in the position of a Government anxious to make provision for the future of the House of Commons, yet totally unable to do so owing to its own weakness, while the Speaker's vacillations and decisions will remain a matter for astonishment to anyone who may have indulged in the belief that a certain measure of intelligence and knowledge is essential in a member of Parliament called to so high a post. Meanwhile, let it not be forgotten that he has avowed himself capable of enlightenment.

It is to be hoped that the Government may prove itself equally capable of education, and may realise that their attempts at dealing with the franchise fail because they are timid and inconclusive, and that their best course lies in the introduction of a broad and liberal measure of reform which will satisfy the legitimate aspirations of both men and women and will ensure a lasting peace on this question.

Englishwomen "Through German Eyes."

We are indebted to the correspondent who sends us the following curiosity of journalism. In the *Preussische Jahrbucher*, a Dr. Emil Daniels devotes a solemn review to Mrs. Humphry Ward's book, *England's Effort*. He professes a long-standing admiration for the authoress, whose elegant prose reminds him of Spenser (*sic*). No German writer, according to Dr. Daniels is capable of rendering so great a service to the State, though Germany, in his opinion, provides as good a subject, or even better. "It is the manner and style," he says, "with which the English poetess presents her material, the grace of the woman of the world, that gives her that inimitable charm which is so specifically national, and yet appeals to such widely international circles." He is struck by her skill in appealing to the American feminists by describing the activities of English women in the war. "She welcomes the entrance of women into the munition industries, not merely as a good Englishwoman, but as a champion of women's rights. She suggests that after all that women have done for the war it will no longer be possible to refuse them the vote. She may be right. We hear that Asquith, the life-long opponent of Woman Suffrage, has already decided to support the equality of the sexes at the next General Election. We hope that Britons will like it. But an authoress who stands for woman's right to a vote is certain of awakening sympathy for England among American feminists."

Dr. Emil Daniels is, at any rate, open to suggestion, and may be congratulated on his method of reading between the lines.

More Recognition for Women Police.

Mr. Paul Taylor, the Marylebone Magistrate, took the unusual course last week of utilising the services of a member of the women police and making her a probation officer. Several police-women have attended the court in uniform for months past, but this is the first time that one has been officially recognised. In the dock was a young woman of notorious character, with a long list of convictions against her, "not the sort of person," according to the Magistrate, "that I should think there was any utility in asking the ordinary probation officer to attend to." Nevertheless, he appealed to "Sergeant" Beausire to endeavour to do some good to the girl, and appointed her probation officer on the spot.

"Monstrous Conditions."

We have pleasure in publishing this week an article by Miss Alison Neilans, Secretary of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, on the question of Compulsory Notification of Venereal Diseases, and a letter by Mrs. Fawcett on the same subject. Both article and letter deal, in part, with an aspect of the problem to which very little attention has been given by the Press. The danger to the community of the prostitute and of the girls in their 'teens who are just commencing a life of degradation has gained wide publicity; but scarcely a word has

been said of the danger to innocent wives and children of the loose-living man.

The Nation, however, has the courage to speak out against this one-sided view, and to warn its readers of the danger that "under the obvious inspiration of a great Government Office" a system very similar to that which existed under the old "C.D. Acts" will be introduced, in a disguised form.

If notification of venereal diseases is made compulsory, women will be victimised in a way that will be out of all proportion to the interference with men. "It will be they who are exposed to the chief persecution and the most abominable treatment under compulsion. And it is they who, owing to their present political subjection, possess the smallest defence against such measures as this proposal and the C.D. Acts, from which, after heroic struggle, the most helpless were delivered."

Still stronger is the comment of *The Herald:* "What must be settled in each of our minds is this: Is prostitution a right and proper thing, quite apart from whether it is dangerous to the physical well-being of the nation or no? If it is morally and spiritually wrong, then we all need to be taught self-discipline and restraint, and public opinion should stand out clearly on behalf of one moral standard in sexual matters for men and women. Those who claim this to be an impossible 'ideal' must be willing that their own children shall be bought and sold on the streets. We want all who need medical treatment to receive it from the State willingly and ungrudgingly, but we have no fancy for the setting up of arrangements by which women may be preserved for safe use by men, our contention being that none of us who would tolerate these conditions would for one moment allow our own children to endure such monstrous conditions of life."

An Army Doctor's Opinion.

Public Opinion (October 27th) reprints from the *Medical Press* of October 18th a very valuable article by Captain J. C. McWalter (M.D., LL.D., R.A.M.C.) based on his experience as sanitary officer of a large internment camp, in which he refutes the idea that continence is bad for men's health.

The Thin End of the Wedge.

Some Considerations on Proposed Measures Against Venereal Disease.

By Alison Neilans
(Acting Secretary of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene).

There is little doubt that we are faced with the possibility of legislative proposals, or, by what is more dangerous, of powers being given under Orders in Council which will once more put the most defenceless class in the whole population under the control of the police and military authorities.

It is an unfortunate fact that the spread of knowledge in regard to the terrible prevalence and effects of venereal diseases is likely to cause a certain amount of panic amongst those who have only just realised the dangers. That panic is already becoming apparent. It has been voiced in the public press lately in a number of ways, and found definite expression in the Manifesto recently signed by a number of ladies demanding compulsory notification of these diseases.

The Royal Commission has already dealt quite definitely with this proposition (see page 50 of Report).

"We recognise that notification might, in some cases, assist towards better initial treatment, and might often help to secure continued treatment, which is most important. We realise also the powerful educative influence of notification, and the means it would provide, assuming that it could be universally applied, of obtaining statistical information now lacking. We are, however, impressed with the difficulty of obtaining complete notification, and we recognise the inequity of a partial system. We consider, also, that any system of compulsory treatment might defeat the object we have in view, which is to secure accurate diagnosis and adequate treatment at the earliest possible moment for the largest number of sufferers. We have come to the conclusion that, at the present time, any system of compulsory personal notification would fail to secure the advantages claimed, and we are of opinion that better results may be obtained by a policy of education regarding the importance and serious nature of venereal diseases, and the adoption of the measures we have already recommended for increasing largely the facilities for diagnosis and treatment."

This is the opinion of specially qualified men and women, who have considered the problems of venereal disease for over two years, and have heard evidence from most of the recognised experts. This should be sufficient on the medical side, but it is open to question if the demand for compulsory notification needs to be taken very seriously as a general medical measure. Notification of all venereally diseased people, men and women, rich and poor, is not, one imagines, really contemplated by those who are engineering the demand for measures of this sort. Any real discussion of the administrative difficulties and the deterrent effect of a truly impartial method of notification and compulsory treatment would reveal the fact that if insisted upon it will wreck the whole scheme proposed by the Royal Commissioners. Why, then is this proposal advocated by those so closely in touch with the War Office, and given support by some sections of the press? Probably, because it helps to create the panicky atmosphere in which ill-considered and intolerable legislation is passed and the rights and liberties of the weak and the despised become of no account. The whole agitation looks very much like kite-flying to see how much public opinion will stand in the way of repressive measures against women suspected of prostitution.

Mr. Herbert Samuel, speaking on this subject at the Mansion House on October 24th, said that the action of the police was hampered in regard to prostitution by legal restrictions, but that "it is somewhat doubtful whether Parliament would consent to extend too far the power of summary arrest of women in the streets, with the possibility of grave errors such as apparently arose in one or two notorious cases some years ago."

The legal restrictions he mentioned appeared to be that the police are only supposed to arrest "known prostitutes." If this legal restriction were removed we presume the police could summarily arrest any girl who, *in their opinion*, ought to be arrested. As no evidence is required in these cases except that of the policeman, it is not difficult to see that the number of girls in prison for solicitation would increase enormously, and as they would all be subjected to compulsory medical examination by the prison doctor, their notification and enforced treatment, if diseased, would then be an easy matter. Mr. Samuel foreshadowed something on these lines when he said: "Another question was whether persons convicted of certain offences, if found, in prison, to be suffering from this disease in an infectious state ought to be detained in some institution, not necessarily a prison, until cured."

One magistrate, Mr. Francis, of Westminster Police Court, has already acted upon this suggestion (which it may be well to remind him is not yet law) and has sent two girls to the Infirmary for a lengthy period under probation. Further enquiries are being made into this case, but it is probable that the course taken was entirely illegal, and the fact that the prison doctor put into Court a medical report which led to this action by the magistrate, would seem to be a breach of confidence, and a grave abuse of his powers as a medical officer.

There is perhaps no power so dangerous, so unconstitutional, and so liable to abuse as the power to give an indefinite punishment for an undefined offence. All proposals which directly or indirectly give such a power ought to be opposed with the whole force of the women's movement. It is not always easy to test all these proposals, and some of them seem quite innocent, and are innocently intended. The late Professor James Stuart suggested a touchstone which ought to be applied to every proposal of this kind. It is that we must ask ourselves:—

1.—Does it tend to make of women, or of any women, a special class?
2.—Does it tend to place them under police control?
3.—Does it tend towards establishing the compulsory *visite?*

If we apply this touchstone we shall not go far wrong.

There is another aspect which ought not to be passed over without protest. It is that strangely ignorant assumption that prostitute women are necessarily the chief spreaders of disease, and that because they are what they are the community is justified in taking special action against them. Let us examine this theory. Let us suppose we have succeeded in locking up in prison hospitals all the professional prostitutes, all the clandestine girls, all the pitiful young "flappers" between fifteen and eighteen who are now getting infected. What would be the result? We should, in effect, have said to men: "All the diseased women are now in hospital, the rest are safe." And in a short time there would be a large number of other girls newly infected because we had left the diseased men at large, and had once again impressed them with the belief that prostitution and disease are criminal in women but not in men. The diseased woman who solicits men ought to be in exactly the same legal position as a diseased man who solicits women. She is certainly in the same moral position. Further, no one is obliged to have

intercourse with casual people, diseased or otherwise, and it would be ridiculous, were it not so tragic, to read the constant appeals to protect men (all over eighteen) from the solicitation of girls. Our girls need the protection just as much and for the same reason, as from all reports venereal disease is spreading rapidly among the "flapper" class.

The real protection is a fight, not against some women, but against prostitution itself in both men and women. No scheme can be of ultimate value which only seeks to make prostitution healthy. The right course is to open treatment freely for all without deterrent penalties; to warn both sexes that promiscuous intercourse is always dangerous, and that as we do not propose to treat women any more harshly than men, the only course for both sexes is to act in a manner consistent with a sense of individual responsibility and self-restraint.

Compulsory Notification.

We have received for publication the following letter from Mrs. Fawcett, which has also been circulated to the Press:—

MADAM,—May I add my voice to those that have already been raised against compulsory notification of venereal disease? People are misled by the supposed parallel with other infectious disorders. They say, if compulsory notification has been useful for scarlet fever and small-pox, why should it not also be useful in preventing the spread of venereal disease? But there is no real parallel. Notification is nothing unless it is followed by isolation during the period of infection, and in the case of venereal disease this is an impossibility, owing (1) to the long period of infection, and (2) the enormous numbers which would have to be dealt with. The reply attempted to the first objection is that the use of salvarsan has materially reduced the period of infection. This is true, I understand, as far as syphilis is concerned, but it is not true as concerning gonorrhœa. Now the Report of the Royal Commission, in attempting to estimate the numbers affected, says: "While we have been unable to arrive at any positive figures, the evidence we have received leads us to the conclusion that the number of persons who have been infected with syphilis. . . cannot fall below 10 per cent. of the whole population in the large cities, and the percentage affected with gonorrhœa must greatly exceed the proportion." Does anyone imagine that it would be possible effectively to isolate during a period of infection which at shortest might be months and at longest might extend to years, millions of our fellow citizens of both sexes?

If we also look at the table published in the report of the Royal Commission respecting the social distribution of the disease as measured by the death-rate, it is found that the highest death-rate is in the ranks of unskilled labour, the next highest in the upper and middle classes; the lowest is among miners and agricultural labourers. What Home Secretary is going to tackle the job of compulsory isolation during the period of the disease of its upper and middle-class victims, or of millions in the ranks of unskilled labour? No wonder that those who have followed this question with the closest attention have the deepest distrust of the proposals for compulsory notification. The powers conferred would never be used with impartiality; they would be exercised as against prostitutes of the lowest class, while those consorting with them would be left absolutely unchecked in spreading the disease among innocent women and children. It would reintroduce the principle of the Contagious Diseases Acts, which all the best medical and moral authorities have condemned as absolutely useless and misleading.

There is only one short cut to immunity from venereal diseases, and that is abstinence from the conduct which spreads them. When Lord Kitchener was in command of the Army in India he faced the problem with his usual straightforwardness, and made an appeal to his men to observe decency and self-control. In his address to them, he pictured in vivid language the horrors of the diseases they exposed themselves to, and added: "Lord Kitchener asks all the men to read and think over these matters, and to consider whether self-indulgence is worth the price which has to be paid for it in disease, in injury to the man himself, his wife and children, in destruction of the efficiency of his corps, and in degradation of his own body and mind." Men have shown by the million that they can die for their country; let them also show that they can live for her.

MILLICENT GARRETT FAWCETT.

Women at the Plough.

A typical October day: a pale blue sky, across which the strong west wind drives huddled masses of cloud, so that lights and shadows flicker and change continuously over the open rolling country. The air is full of the smell of autumn—that indescribable wholesome fragrance which seems of the very essence of earth—the hedgerows are heavy with huge festoons of "old man's beard" and briony, there are blackberries everywhere, and here and there flames a bush of scarlet hips. The sun is hot enough for spectators to bask on the gray stone walls, and very soon the walls are black with them, for here is something new in our parts—a demonstration of women on the land. We are agricultural folk; even the shopkeepers in the little towns have often a bit of land as well, and most of us know something of what farm work really means. We have scant sympathy with those who fear honest sunburn or hardened hands, and we know that hay-making is hot and dusty work, whatever the poets may make of it.

Our boys "mess about" on the farm almost as soon as they can walk, and you may often see a proud baby of five or six perched on the back of a patient cart-horse riding it to water on a summer evening. Before compulsory education forced us to send our children to learn "oonderments" in school, many a boy was leading horses at eight years old. Even to-day there are experienced hands of thirteen and fourteen in professional loose velveteen coats and corduroys standing about watching with critical eyes what "they women be goin' to do."

It is a kindly audience, sympathetic and interested, but it is not an easy one to face, for it is very largely composed of experts, from the oldest inhabitant, who sits chuckling on a big stone, and wheezes out that "we shan't want no more chaps nor lads soon," to the village women themselves, many of whom know from experience what a hard day in the rick-yard means. In the big field ten furrows are marked out, and soon ten teams come jingling and swinging, their own ploughmen in charge. By each furrow stand competitors—girls and women of all sorts and kinds, brought together by the one desire to work for their country where work is needed. One little group is gay with blue overalls and brightly coloured 'kerchiefs, others are in knickerbockers and long coats, plain serviceable working kit in these soft fallows sticky with yesterday's rain. The village women wear pale blue and pink prints. But it is hard work ploughing on heavy land, and the ploughs are set deep. There is one thin slip of a child of fourteen who is almost swung off her feet as the plough turns, and one blue overall finds her ploughshare buried deep in mud, where the crowd has cut up the ground by the gate. The rightful owners of the teams watch with undisguised anxiety, and at critical moments cannot forbear stretching out a helping hand (one can see the ploughwomen wish they wouldn't, but there is a kindliness in it which is irresistible) or calling a familiar "c'mover" in tones that Ned or Dobbin are accustomed to and therefore understand.

Other women are spreading manure, some cleaning roots, some drilling, others harnessing teams and leading the waggons through gates and round obstacles. But next to the ploughing, the crowds most enjoy watching the rick-yard. Here half-a-dozen women are preparing straw for the thatchers—"yealming" we call it—and at the word "Go" they pull out the wet straw, give it a curious swing in the air to straighten it, and pile it criss-cross in neat bundles at a surprising pace. After this comes thatching, and the crowd cheers warmly as an old lady of seventy-one (in a sun-bonnet of her own making) takes her "scratch" (a forked stick holding a large and very heavy "yealm") on her shoulder, and with absolute sure-footedness climbs up a high ladder to the top of a rick, and proceeds to thatch as coolly as if she were twenty. Already she has won first prize for manure-spreading, and her green and red armlet (which shows she has worked over a month on the land) bears a special badge, "Give I because I be over age, and be drawin' my old age pension." The village is subscribing for a silver brooch as a mark of gratitude for the farm work she has done this summer.

On the whole, the farmers—and there must be more than 100 of them present—are well satisfied. The "women's work" (though as one shrewd old farmer says, "If you're wise, you'll never say what's women's work and what's men's"), *i.e.*, manure-spreading and root-pulling and cleaning and "yealming," was done "as it ought to be" (high praise that from our cautious experts). The work with the horses was plucky and promising. It is no use pretending that girls who have begun farm-work this year can take the places of men who have been at it all their lives: "'Tis an art as has to be learned. When a man's been at it since he was quite a little chap, 'tis second

nature to him, and he don't have to think how to do it"; but they have proved conclusively (*a*) that not all women are afraid of horses (as I have heard stated even by farm women); (*b*) that they can very quickly be turned into efficient under-carters and farm hands. No doubt educated women, in this as in other professions, learn rapidly because they have been trained to use their brains at the same time as their hands, and in some cases they have proved themselves capable of taking full responsibility on a farm. In this as in so many other instances, it is not a case of man *versus* woman, but of individuals and of opportunity for training. Some work is so heavy that few women could tackle it properly, but those who have tried farm work know how quickly it hardens the muscles, and our thatcher of seventy-one is good evidence of the healthiness of an out-door life.

Farmers are shy of employing women in many cases, not only because—as one said, gloomily—"Women be funny," but because of practical difficulties with regard to housing, and training: "We've no time to go round nursery-maiding," is a common point of view. But there is no doubt that the work of women on the land is doing much to break down a high wall of prejudice, and in this—as in so many cases—the mutual understanding and respect born of working side by side is furthering the common cause of men and women, and helping towards an amicable settlement of at least one labour problem after the war.

News from the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals.

The American Unit.

The American Unit, of whose journey up-country in Macedonia we gave an account in our last issue, is proud of being the nearest hospital to the Serbian Front. The camp is on the side of a lake, right up among the mountains. When the Unit arrived there was a heavy bombardment going on. Night and day the booming of guns could be heard, and from a little distance above the camp the flash of firing could be seen. Very serious cases are coming in, and the whole Unit is working at high pressure. The men are wonderfully patient and grateful, and, fortunately the Serbians are able to keep the Unit well supplied with food, which seems to be quite plentiful.

A Tribute to Our Hospital in Corsica.

The Corsican Hospital still continues its work amongst the refugees. Last week it was inspected by one of the French Medical Inspectors—Général Monséeur Very. Miss Culbard describes the visit:—

"He came with Major Regnault, the local military doctor, who wished him to see the open-air treatment in our tents for the tubercular cases, as he wants to get the same for the Military Hospital here. We showed them the hospital from the cellars (where the dispensary is) to the cottages, where the stores, X-Rays, Pathological Laboratory, Laundry, &c., are, and he was most complimentary, writing in the Visitors' Book:—

'*Hommages respectueux au personnel feminin qui se dévouent au soulagement des Ailiés.*'

"He was delighted with the wards and everything. He told us he had inspected Royaumont four days before President Poincaré's visit, and spoke highly of it. He was particularly pleased at the versatility of our chauffeur-orderlies when he saw them in the X-Rays and then later in the kitchen; I told him they not only looked after the cars, but helped in the laundry or kitchen, and could do the typewriting when our clerk was away. It is really owing to so many of our staff being willing to help, wherever there is need, that it is possible to work this rather unusually varied hospital."

With the London Units.

There is no news from the Hospital Units in the Dobrudja district, beyond urgent requests for more drugs—and again more drugs, which means a perpetual drain upon resources. Moreover, there is anxiety that the hospital equipment may have suffered in the retreat of the army, or may have had to be abandoned entirely. It is, therefore, clear that funds must be raised immediately to meet the emergency.

In order to help in raising money, our readers are urged to take tickets for Mr. Matheson Lang's first-night performance of "Buxell" (by Rudolf Besier), at the Strand Theatre, on Tuesday, November 7th, at eight o'clock. By kind permission of Mr. Lang, the proceeds of this performance are to go to the Scottish Women's Hospitals at present in the Dobrudja. Tickets are obtainable from the Box Office, from the usual agents, and from the Office of the London Units of the Scottish Women's Hospitals, 66, Victoria Street (Tel. Victoria 4800). Boxes, £4 13s., £3 10s., and £2 6s.; stalls, 11s. 6d.; dress circle, 8s. and 6s. 6d.; upper circle, 5s. 3d. and 4s. 3d.; pit, 2s. 8d.; gallery, 1s. 2d. Tickets for the pit and gallery (unreserved) may be obtained in advance from 66, Victoria Street, only.

Millicent Fawcett Hospital Units.

We are glad to welcome Mrs. Elborough back from her two months' tour in Russia, and hope to publish an interview with her next week. But, meanwhile, she has given us this account of our Military Hospital in Galicia:—

"We reached Czernowitz on Saturday evening, having come by train from Kieff, where we had obtained the necessary permits for the war zone. The preliminaries included a visit to a photographer, who, in a very few minutes, turned out several copies of a picture, the charm of which lay chiefly in the artistic background of trees and snow! It was, however, sufficient to satisfy the authorities. At Czernowitz, our young soldier-chauffeur, who had come to meet us at the station, informed us that he could not take us to our destination that night as he had no petrol, and strongly advised us to sleep in the town and proceed the next day. We decided to do so, and took our way to the 'Hotel Gottlieb,' which is at present used by the Zemski Soyoos to house people working for them on their journeys to and from their destinations. The hotel was very full, but, as usual, Russian hospitality, which is a truly wonderful thing, overcame all difficulties, and we were quickly provided with a bedroom containing two beds and a large couch, which enabled us all to enjoy a good night. Russian sanitars, or orderlies, made our beds and attended to the housemaid's work generally, announcing with real pride the speedy preparation of hot baths! Dinner followed shortly. We sat in a big dining-room at long tables, which were crowded with doctors, nurses, and various officials connected with the chain of hospitals which have been organised for the use of the Russian military authorities. It was a most animated scene. Conversation, as ever among Russians, waxed fast and furious, and food disappeared with marvellous rapidity. Great curiosity was shown over the English doctors, and more especially in our administrator, as a woman filling such a post in Russia is practically unknown. My status was generally a little difficult to explain, but Miss Moberly's Russian was always quite adequate, and, as a rule, quite disproportionate importance was attached to my office, mainly, I think, because I had just come from London, and only proposed staying in Russia a few weeks! After we had dined and enjoyed glasses of tea, accompanied by wild and complicated conversations with various people, carried on in a mixed language of Russian, French, English, and German, we left the table, immediately thanked our hostess, as is the Russian custom, and retired to our room. On the way upstairs we were amused to see a great number of German trade advertisements on the walls of the hall and staircase. Dr. May, who is gifted with the useful faculty of sleeping anywhere, and at any time, insisted on occupying the couch, and within a very short time we were comfortably settled, our weary heads resting on straw pillows.

"The next day was Friday, and we began as early as possible to make preparations for our journey to Zaleshchiki. It seemed an easy task, but proved to be very difficult. Czernowitz was unable to produce a drop of petrol, and we saw our precious time slipping away before our eyes. After a long morning of maddening delays and endless interviews, we eventually left early in the afternoon. The weather chose to be most unpropitious, and we set out in a bitterly cold rain and wind storm, which lasted throughout the journey. I sat in the front seat with our soldier-driver, and Miss Moberly and Dr. May were practically buried at the back under our baggage, which always necessarily included bedding! A few suit-cases were accommodated in odd nooks in the front seat. We travelled at a good speed, throwing up great clouds of dust as we went. The road was practically deserted, save for an occasional party of soldiers or peasants, who scuttled to the side of the road at our approach. On every hand was devastation, utter and complete, and on both sides of the road were habitations of all kinds shattered and ruined—great, splendid stone houses, roofless; little houses wrecked, cottages razed to the ground. For mile after mile we sped along the road, dusty in spite of the rain, and eventually crossed a temporary wooden bridge over the Dniester (the permanent bridge having been partly blown up), which brought us to Zaleshchiki. We were enthusiastically received by all the available members

of the hospital staff, and taken to the little house where the doctors are living, and where, over tea, we talked and talked. The hospital itself stands high in large gardens, and as you approach it by a long, straight path, it looks very solid and imposing, with the sign of the Red Cross showing bravely on the roof. Inside, all is wonderfully neat and clean, in spite of the fact that equipment of all kinds is deplorably short. Enormous difficulties of dirt and general inconvenience have been overcome by the loyal and ceaseless efforts of all concerned, and now, although the doctors and nurses are clamouring for blankets and other necessities, the eighty-two men who were then in the hospital, are receiving the best possible treatment and attention. Terrible cases of erysipelas, typhoid, dysentery, diphtheria, and scarlet fever are in the wards, while there are patients suffering from other serious diseases. Every available space is occupied by beds, and in the beautiful airy cellars (which in old days were used for storing fruit) all the disinfecting work, straw-mattress-making, and such things, are carried on by sanitars, who are also used as much as possible in the wards. As there is practically no civilian population in Zaleshchiki (which has been taken and retaken five times), the patients are almost entirely military; at the same time, no civilian has ever been refused, and very good out-patient work has been done in outlying villages. In every case, those in charge of hospitals such as this are asked by the authorities to pay especial attention to the needs of the civil population.

"The surrounding country is beautiful; the Bukowina Hills, clothed in lovely autumn tints, are something to wonder at. Fortunately, in their all too scanty leisure, doctors and nurses are able to drive and ride about the country, as the Zemski Soyoos provide carriages and horses for the hospital. These are very often all busy with transport of food, &c., but, when available, are made good use of by our people.

"There is nothing but praise for the work at this hospital, and the relations between our people and those working in neighbouring Russian hospitals are excellent. Communication by post and telegraph is practically impossible, and the conduct of the hospital is, therefore, almost entirely in the hands of our doctors there, and they are obliged to shoulder very heavy responsibilities. It is very good to know that from the first the Galician Unit has worked splendidly, showing a fine spirit of comradeship and high courage in the face of very real and sordid difficulties."

To Every Secretary of Every Society.

Do you often find that you want, in these great stirring days, the case for Women's Suffrage put in a clear, simple, and popular form for new readers, and for the public outside, so that he who runs may read the "signs of the times"?

THE COMMON CAUSE is endeavouring to do this for you, in convenient form, in

A SPECIAL ILLUSTRATED NUMBER FOR DECEMBER 8th.

This number will contain among other articles:—

A SURVEY OF WOMEN'S WORK DURING THE WAR.

[A short history, with illustrations, of "How Women have trained to serve the country, replacing the men who have gone to the war."]

Special pages on:—

What the Vote will enable us to do.

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Correspondence.

DAUGHTERS AS PARTNERS.

Madam,—The article in your issue of October 20th, entitled "Daughters as Partners," interested me very much, and the sentence "The greatest obstacle in the way would be the sex prejudice of outside business men," called forth many reminiscences. In 1879, I went to help my father in a business emergency and to bridge over a time until my brothers would be available; and in 1886 my two brothers and I were taken into partnership. At the outset, when I pleaded inability, my father had said, "Use the best judgment you have, and what you do, I do." It was no wonder that with such generous support I had practically no difficulty with the staff. But the outsiders! How pertinaciously they assumed my non-existence! I could fill pages with amusing anecdotes of the way people tried to evade meeting me on business matters, or tried to get my orders confirmed by a male partner, though this never succeeded, for my partners were always too loyal to put me in an invidious position. More than once or twice the confirmation of one of our senior male assistants was sought for, any man's order seeming safer to the outsiders than any woman's, irrespective of position. My father used to say that the test of a good business letter was the reply it called forth, and I soon found that my letters produced satisfactory answers wherever my identity was unknown. But I think it was scarcely my fault that when the writer was known to be a woman the answer was nearly always unsatisfactory: either curt and uncommunicative, or verbose and wide of the mark, their common characteristic being that they did not answer my questions, which had to be repeated. For years I effaced myself whenever it was possible; then I changed my tactics, and took, and gave, an immense amount of trouble in the hope of wearing down a little prejudice. One commercial traveller with whom I had had a lot of difficulty told me at last that of course he understood good manners too well to admit that a lady knew anything of business, even when he could see that she did; but that if he might consider it to be my whim, my amusement, to be a business woman, without being accused of regarding it as a serious occupation of my life, it would give him much pleasure to admit that I knew what I was about. The theory that a lady should do no useful work died very hard indeed. Once I took a long journey to make some intricate business arrangements, and nearly failed to get them through. The man I went to meet was most courteous, with "Yes" and "Yes" to all I said; but I quickly perceived that he was treating me with the consideration one gives to the feeble-minded, and not taking my instructions at all. I was almost in despair before I succeeded in convincing him that he would have a man to deal with in the next stage of the transaction. Then he consented to treat me as a reasonable being, and I was equal to the work I had undertaken. But suppose I had been unsupported! My position as paymaster was a frequent advantage. I could bring people round to treating with me by delicately hinting that not only had I the desire to give an order but also the power of the cheque book, and forthwith, instead of "nothing to suit" me, no trouble was too great for them to take. I had many advantages. But what of the women who are expected to work without them? That they sometimes fail through no fault or deficiency of their own is no surprise to me. But doubtless things are already better than they were in my day; and it is worth while to put up with a good deal in the process of breaking through the sex prejudice.

An Old Business Woman.

"LEST WE FORGET."

Madam,—Is there a wife or mother in the land who does not feel acutely the pressure upon them of the machinations of the profiteers? Is there a child who is not denied some necessary or little luxury that could well be afforded were it not that a combination of men in Britain find their opportunity to make for themselves greater riches than they have ever dreamed in time of peace was possible? Look we in any direction: bread, meat, milk, sugar, and the hundred and one things a household requires and we find these necessary articles driven to the highest price it is possible to drive them—a price even the Government protests is too high, and it is not to be forgotten that the Government shares some of the profits made, and is thus unable of itself to place too severe a check upon those who distribute. It is lightly said, by those who would excuse this unpatriotic action of men who fly flags over their shops and manufactories, sit on Tribunals, blow trumpets as they subscribe to war loans, as if the act of putting good interest into their pockets was in any way a meritorious one, that money must be found to finance the war, and that this is the way to get the money out of those who do not pay income-tax—a favourite claim of theirs. Did the Government take over the trade in these necessaries and devote all the profits to the war, save a bare interest on the capital of the business and trades so taken over, little might be said, but two results would follow—first, prices would be greatly lower, and, secondly, the Government would collect a much higher revenue.

What should women do? The answer is a simple one. They must "not forget," which would mean that all their influence must be directed at once—vote or no vote—to prevent the continuation of this vile system of exploitation by any and every means in their power, and they have many. One is at once to select those who are less venal than others and give them a preference. Another is to seek means to influence public opinion in the direction of throwing open the country to free competition for all necessaries of life, and let it be seen that an attempt to use the war as a lever to gain protection, which is the crystallisation of the present state of things, will fail through the vigour of the opposition. If the women of Britain choose to let the opportunity slip then all the misery that will follow will lie at their door, and their children will be right in crying out that those who should have protected them have betrayed them. It is not enough to say that without a vote they can do nothing. The labouring classes of Britain had no vote before the passage of the Reform Bill of 1832, yet they gained great measures of relief, even though they were not to be compared with those gained after the Bill became law; but had they done nothing until they gained the right to vote such a right would never have been accorded to them. So it is with women, and the more vigour they exhibit in fighting evils now the sooner will the vote be gained. It is moral power that tells, not physical power, and a victory for morals will carry the suffrage question further than any number of promises made by timid Members of Parliament—promises, the value of which women know now how to assess.

Arthur Haywood.

TO SAVE THE BABIES.

Madam,—May I again appeal for support of our Baby Saving work in the East End of London?

The ex-public-house at 438, Old Ford Road, Bow, now known as the "Mothers' Arms," may well be regarded as the centre of our activities.

The bar room is used for health lectures and baby weighing, the tap room is the children's bath room, and the bar parlour the doctors' consultation room; the billiard room is the principal day nursery with a flat roof outside the window as a playground, and on the second floor invalid babes are accommodated.

Perhaps in the near future other beer houses may become milk houses, seeing that all are agreed, from the Government downwards, that baby saving is a key industry of Britain just now!

But national work though this is, the wherewithal that could so easily be secured by the State has still to be painfully begged from the generous and patriotic public. It is well known that a little child requires a quart of milk per day, or its equivalent, namely, 3s. 6d. a week; a grateful country through its Government awards 2s. per week for the third and subsequent children of soldiers laying down their lives at the front.

We, working in the East End, need nearly £5,000 a year for our life-saving activities, and we know not where to seek it. We are organising a Woman's Exhibition with Sweated Industries, Mothercraft and Educational Exhibits (Montessori, Dalcroze), Sale of Work, &c., in Caxton Hall, on December 7th, 8th, 9th, from 3 to 10 p.m., in the hope of raising funds.

We would be more than grateful for gifts for the Sale of Work either made up, or materials, or money to cover expenses and to make the Exhibition a financial success. These should be sent (registered and sealed to avoid loss in post) direct to the Exhibition Secretary, 400, Old Ford-road, Bow, E. As to the "Mothers' Arms," I earnestly beg all who realise that England has such grievous need of her babies just now, to send their practical sympathy to me at Langham House, Harrow, as speedily as possible.

Barbara Tchaykovsky, M.D.

"MISS NIGHTINGALE'S LETTERS."

Madam,—About the beginning of May this year I wrote to tell you that, in a discussion after one of my lectures on the Record Office, a gentleman had stated that he had seen some of Miss Nightingale's letters exhibited at the Record Office Museum. One was endorsed: "This woman must be crushed." I invited some of your readers to find this, and check it. No one having done so, I inquired on my return to London. I found there had been such an exhibit for three months, at the time of Miss Nightingale's death. I asked leave to see the documents, some of which were in the Foreign Office and some in the War Office. It took some time, especially in the latter office at this busy crisis, first to give me permission to read, then to check the notes which I had taken, and to give me permission to publish.

The letters are, naturally, very interesting in themselves. One, written from the Barrack Hospital, Scutari, December 3rd, 1854, to the British Embassy at Constantinople, appeals for immediate help in repairing dilapidated buildings, in inclement weather, with overcrowding in the wards, which was producing hospital gangrene. "Having been led to expect by the authorities one thousand more sick and wounded immediately," new arrangements had to be made. The Turkish workmen had struck for lack of pay. "My conscience prompted me to immediate action—increase of sickness being the greatest evil which comes under the range of my peculiar duties." She had advanced the money, to save time, and asks if she had done right. In order to finish the work in a fortnight there were needed sixty-five carpenters, twenty masons, 100 labourers, twelve pointers, three glaziers—in all 200 men. She had a prompt and pleasant reply from the British Ambassador, and she managed in time to receive her patients. (This makes us think of our men now.)

The special letter which had been exhibited in the Museum was from the War Office collection of papers. It was dated from the same hospital at Scutari, January 7th, 1856. Meanwhile, Miss Nightingale had been officially created the Superintendent of all the women nurses in charge of the wounded and invalids in the Crimea. But the knowledge of her position did not seem to have reached everybody or its importance realised. Two nurses had been sent on from Smyrna, where they were not needed, to Scutari, where they were needed. But she was not informed of this, till their arrival, on a requisition, "which promises them wages, without specifying who is to pay them." She finds it very inconvenient and perplexing to have others making arrangements unknown to her, as she had already dispatched nurses "and settled the rate of wages they were to receive from myself." She humbly asks the War Office to notify their officials of the powers granted to her. Marginal comments are scribbled all round this (unsigned, but the official may be traced). "I confess I think it is time that we *curbed* the pretensions of Miss Nightingale to unlimited and almost irresponsible command over the nurses attached to the army in the East." The word in question, however, is *curbed*, not "crushed," as given me by my informant.

C. C. Stopes.

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Reviews.

The November number of the ENGLISHWOMAN has an article on Franchise for Service by the Lady Betty Balfour, in which she maintains that when the foreign foe has been dealt with, women, who, as Lord Derby said, "are now part and parcel of our great army," will have to take their part with our soldiers and sailors as citizens of the country in the great campaign against the enemies at home—poverty, disease, and vice—that are always with us.

The "Problem of the Day" discussed this month is the Need for Policewomen. The work of women police in munition factories and the neighbourhood of camps is explained, and a strong and outspoken plea is put forward for the employment of uniformed women to deal with the "Scenes of hardly-restrained vice in our Parks. . . . for which the darkness is a cloak (and sometimes only the shameless fiction of a cloak)."

"Policewomen," continues the writer, "should obviously be employed in conjunction with policemen to effect raids on disorderly houses, and in the inspection of common lodging-houses"—a duty which the male police force naturally dislike, and cannot discharge adequately alone; and they are badly needed for protecting and controlling children.

"While we are on the subject of numbers, it must be pointed out that investigations in plain clothes cannot be carried on by women in the district in which they act as policewomen in uniform; and that though (for example) their presence will prevent much molestation of children and kindred crimes and misdemeanours, a woman in uniform cannot follow up the pests who haunt children's playgrounds, and are so seldom brought to justice. There are obvious difficulties in a plain-clothes policeman taking up cases which involve questioning children, which do not exist in the case of a female official; but as long as policewomen are as rare as white blackbirds they have little opportunity for plain-clothes work."

Some Pamphlets.

A SYNOPSIS OF THE FINAL REPORT OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON VENEREAL DISEASES. By Douglas White, M.D. (Captain R.A.M.C.) (National Council for Combating Venereal Diseases, Kingsway House, W.C. 1s. net.)

A useful handbook for anyone who wishes to master the facts elicited by the Royal Commission, and the deductions and recommendations based upon them.

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR COMBATING VENEREAL DISEASES. (Kingsway House, W.C.)

Contains an account of the aims and objects of the Council, which sets itself not only to watch Government action with regard to facilitating treatment and to guard against the special dangers of the present time, but to arouse and enlighten the general public, and create a greater sense of responsibility.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF SOCIAL INVESTIGATION AND REFORM. (5, Sloane Court, S.W.)

The objects of this Society are (1) to get into touch with all organisations and individuals interested in discovering the causes of and the means of combating prostitution in this country; (2) to collect and disseminate reliable information as to existing conditions of vice; (3) to provide permanent employment for girls and women needing a new start in life.

For Women Workers.

"What are the women doing at home?" asks a bluejacket on service far away. "We hear they are taking up all kinds of work so as to release men for service. Is it true?" The answer is "Yes—half a million, at least, in regular work, and thousands more that don't get into statistics. And they are doing hard work, dirty work, and sometimes dangerous work, because they know that the war-material is wanted for our defence, and the country needs them.

But emergency work in extemporised factories is often unavoidably trying; besides the long hours in the workshops there is too often a long walk after hours to distant lodgings; there is nowhere to sit down and rest.

The Young Women's Christian Association has already undertaken rest and recreation rooms for girls and women in all parts of the country, especially in industrial centres. But the demand is immensely great, and growing with the steady influx of women into the factories. Will our readers who wish they could do something in these critical days, and yet are unable to take up munition work themselves, give a little sum to enable the Y.W.C.A. to put up

A "COMMON CAUSE" HUT.

Several donations are already promised towards the £500 for which we appeal. The Hut, when erected, will be called THE COMMON CAUSE Hut, and bear the inscription: "Presented by the readers of THE COMMON CAUSE."

Subscriptions will be gratefully received and acknowledged by the Editor of THE COMMON CAUSE, 14, Great Smith Street, S.W. Cheques and Postal Orders should be crossed Williams Deacon's Bank.

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Non-Party

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Objects:

To promote the candidature of women for the London County Council, Westminster City Council, Metropolitan Borough Councils, and Boards of Guardians.

To create a stronger civic feeling among women, and to increase their sense of responsibility with regard to the exercise of the municipal vote.

To secure the placing on the Register of all women who are qualified for the Local Government Franchise, and to canvass those women who are already on the Register.

To secure support for administrative measures in the interests of women and children, and to educate public opinion concerning women's work in Local Government.

To organise Local Advisory Committees or Local Civic Associations.

Current Work

The activities of the Women's Municipal Party can best be described by an account of the current work. During October 18 Meetings have been held, including Civic Association Meetings.

Seventeen Meetings are arranged for November. Among them a Public Meeting in St. Barnabas' Hall, Dulwich Village, S.E., November 10th, 3.30 p.m. Speakers: THE DUCHESS OF MARLBOROUGH and MRS. BANISTER FLETCHER. Chair: COUNCILLOR HERBERT BOTT; and North Lambeth Civic Association Meeting, Alford House, Lambeth Walk, November 30th, 3 p.m., MISS ANNA MARTIN on "THE ROOT OF POVERTY."

The Women's Municipal Party has nine Local Advisory Commitees in the Metropolitan Borough Area, the most recent having been formed in Finsbury, with Mrs. Deane Streatfeild as Chairman. Several others are in course of formation.

Further particulars of the W.M.P. from the Secretary, 7, Evelyn House, and 2, Oxford Street, W.

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The State and the Family.

Now that the problems of reconstruction are receiving attention in administrative circles, it seems to have occurred to Members of the Government, that whatever we may do or want to do after the war, one matter is paramount—and that is population. The need of future man-power has stimulated investigators to discover how, under the conditions in which so many women live, one child out of three dies before birth, and as many more in the first year of life, so that only one out of three survives the first year of infancy. This knowledge has been, as well it may be, a shock to us all! For a big population will be necessary.

It was this thought that sent the Home Secretary, a little surprised at himself, down to Oxford to address a meeting of the Health and Housing Association. He explained that strange as it might seem to speak on such a subject, "the lessons of the war had brought home to us more clearly than ever before the importance of the numbers of our population." We must therefore endeavour to perfect the science of preserving life, and to that end the Local Government Board was prepared to come to the rescue with a comprehensive scheme, comprising:—

Local supervision of midwives.
Setting up of ante-natal clinics.
Maternity Hospitals.
Post-natal work.
Treatment of complications after birth.
Systematic advice and treatment.
Systematic visitations.
Clinics and dispensaries for children, available until they reach school age, and are registered.

"No authority," cries Mr. Samuel, "will have done its duty until it has established every part of this scheme!" And the Government is prepared to subsidize the work, which has been hiherto carried on by voluntary workers—chiefly by women.

The Times medical correspondent has lost no time. He has decided that the best thing to do is to abolish these voluntary institutions, in many cases conducted by "outsiders," and have in the local doctors, who should now get "a chance to do the work themselves among themselves." With such a system of State-subsidized local practitioners, all fully co-operating with the formidable apparatus of systematic visitations indicated above, no expectant mother could, one thinks, escape medical attention, no infant so much as sneeze without detection. Disease ought to be in a fair way of being stamped out if inspection could do it, so far as females and infants are concerned, while large numbers of local practitioners would be afforded "relief from financial worries." All very excellent things—and yet, any scheme for "State action" with regard to motherhood or "population" needs close and even suspicious watchfulness, for the assiduity which seeks to protect expectant mothers is not unfamiliar to us. It is always supposed to be for the interests of the women themselves. Sometimes it takes the form of urging compulsory notification of pregnancy, sometimes it shows itself in an eager zeal for hedging the expectant mother round with restrictions. She must not labour in factories, a nursing mother "ought not to be allowed" to go out to work at all. "A law ought to be passed forbidding her to"—do anything the faddist happens to take up. Under existing circumstances, interference is not unlimited. But with the machinery of the "comprehensive scheme" in full swing; what provision in there for a check on the social legislator's ardour? What voice will women themselves have, when, what with systematic advice, visitations, and medical officials they might as well hope to escape the attentions of the Holy Office as to evade the meshes of such a network of precautions? One safeguard, it is clear, will be most emphatically needed—the vote.

It is apt to be forgotten by enthusiastic promoters of proliferation that motherhood is to be treated, not as a population

problem, but with proper human respect. It is extraordinary to see how male legislators and enthusiasts hurry to lay down laws —for women to obey; and hopeless to think that any scattered bands of voluntary workers can hope to act as a check upon them. On the other hand, it is instructive to notice that male offenders against hygiene are practically immune from benevolent interference—whether for their own good or that of the public.

It is enough to refer to an incident reported in our last week's issue.

A London magistrate, on the strength of a medical report sent up from the prison doctor, decides, quite arbitrarily, that two young girls shall be subjected to preventive detention in the workhouse infirmary for an indefinite period, under threat of penalties which it is doubtful if he has a legal right to inflict. He gives the reason for his conduct: "There must be some protection for the public from a scourge which was doing such mischief." But are male offenders in the Westminster district police-court cells medically examined and systematically locked up for the protection of the public? If a magistrate loses his sense of proportion and suddenly decides to make an example of an offender suffering from syphilitic disease, does he recollect that male delinquents, when let loose, are also a public danger, and that it is necessary to protect girls "between the ages of fifteen and eighteen"? He does nothing of the kind. And his prudence is the more to be commended. To detain a man for such a reason would be to make himself a laughing-stock. Imagine the fuss, the indignation, the questions asked in the House! But with a woman it is a different story. The capricious and unaccountable humours of reformers, faddists, administrators, legislators, population-promoters, and fanatics generally, spend themselves, for the most part vainly and harmlessly, in their attack on the voter—"Men won't stand it." But with the full force of their power for mischief they can and do expend their energies upon any form that recommends itself of "monstrous regiment" for women. Women have had to put up with it, and old habit is hard to break.

The State has already invaded the household, and seems to be encroaching more and more. "Compulsory notification" sounds in our ears a warning-note: let us heed the warning. It is doubly and trebly necessary, when entering upon the period of reconstruction, which it seems is to be full of social experiments, that the liberties of British women should be protected by the only efficient means of protection—by the vote.

Co-operative Housewives and the Income Tax.

The thrifty working-class housewife who has been wise enough to join an industrial co-operative society, is just now seriously perturbed by threats, and rumours of threats, to induce Parliament to impose Income Tax upon what she calls her "dividends," which come to her as a result of dealing with her society.

Since everything that can affect household economies is of importance to-day, this question of co-operative trading, and its relation to the spending power of the housewife, as well as the manner in which taxes for the support of the country can be raised, becomes of interest.

Perhaps it may be well to preface a statement of the grounds upon which co-operators resist such a proposed tax by a brief outline of the constitution and working of an industrial co-operative society, so that readers of THE COMMON CAUSE who may not be fully acquainted with these thrift associations can distinguish them from the great London "stores" and company shops with which they may otherwise confuse them.

The Army and Navy Stores, the Civil Service Stores, and any of the big trading companies in which the public can buy shares, are considered as good sources of investment for capital, because, being registered under the Companies Acts, all the profit or earnings of the concern go to the holders of capital. Generally speaking, the shareholders are middle-class persons with incomes over £130 per annum who are not entitled to exemption from Income Tax, even in respect to the earnings of small amounts of capital invested in these concerns. There is, therefore, no hardship, but rather a convenience to the large majority of the shareholders in the machinery adopted by the Revenue authorities of collecting Income Tax direct from these bodies, and leaving the shareholder who may not be individually liable to Income Tax, to claim repayment by the cumbersome and annoying process familiar to many of us.

It should always be remembered that the central principle of Income Tax law is that *each individual* whose total income from all sources is over £130 a year is liable to Income Tax; if it does not exceed £130 he is exempt and cannot be made to pay. A society cannot be taxed as a unit, only the individuals composing it. If, for instance, a small partnership or company is assessed directly for Income Tax, any member of it whose income from all sources does not exceed £130 may claim the repayment of the tax on his share of the profits.

The industrial co-operative societies, on the other hand, are composed of persons 94 per cent. of whom are in receipt of less than £130 per annum. The small minority of 6 per cent. of shareholders, whose incomes exceed the taxable minimum, are liable to pay Income Tax the same as every other citizen. They do not escape the common burden under which every self-respecting citizen conscientiously groans by taking up shares in a co-operative society.

Indeed, under the most recent Income Tax form of returns (Qi) issued to workpeople in munition and other areas where wages have risen above £2 10s. per week, the worker is asked, under a special clause marked A, to state the "full year's income from any dividends and interest they may receive, *including share interest or deposit interest from co-operative societies.*"

The words I have italicised, while they pay a tribute to these societies as the chief investment of the workers' savings, clearly show that the law makes no mistake in the sum to be taxed. Interest on share or loan deposit is clearly an addition to one's income, but there are no "dividends" within the meaning of the Income Tax schedule arising from membership of an industrial co-operative society.

These societies are registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act, which provides for the raising of capital (generally in £1 shares) to an unlimited amount at a fixed rate of interest (usually 4½ or 5 per cent.). But the number of shares that any one individual may hold is restricted to £200. This means that the membership is always open to newcomers, and the shares are always at par. They cannot be bought and sold in the share market. Capital is the servant of a co-operative society receiving fixed wages, and not its master, greedily absorbing all the earnings of the trade.

Loan capital can be accepted to any amount, but in practice societies rarely accept such capital unless for specific purposes, such as an extension of business, and this only to a limited extent proportionate to their needs.

At the end of 1915, there were in the returns to the Co-operative Union 1,491 retail trading co-operative societies in Great Britain, with a membership of 3,310,724, a share capital of £47,202,875, and a loan capital of £15,027,555, practically an average capital per member of less than £16, an amount so individually small that we must look to some other aspect of co-operation than its value as an investing medium for capital to account for its great success, and for the malice with which it is regarded in private trading circles.

The success of co-operation lies in the method of its trading. Each of the 1,491 societies began in a simple way, with a few members and a few pounds of capital. (The Rochdale Pioneers Society—the type of modern industrial co-operation—began with twenty-eight weavers and £28 of capital.) The capital is used to open and stock a small shop with goods purchased at wholesale prices. These goods are retailed at current market prices of the neighbourhood, and a periodical balance is made of all the transactions. If the society has been well and carefully managed by elected committees of the members, there invariably results, after all liabilities have been met (including, of course, all rates and taxes, Income Tax on land, buildings, and house property held by the society), a *surplus* between the net cost wholesale and the gross amount received for the goods retailed over the counter.

This "surplus" we co-operators have been in the habit of calling our "profit" and, when divided amongst the members, our "dividend" for lack of a more precisely descriptive term. It is neither, but is a surplus pure and simple, left over of the money we originally paid for our goods. Under the simple plan which, by a stroke of genius, the Rochdale Pioneers set a-going, this sum is handed back to the member pro rata upon the amount of his or her purchases. One working woman, the mother of nine children under fourteen years, wrote to me about a month ago, "I am so thankful for my dividend this quarter, for it is enough to buy the children two pairs of boots."

As an illustration of the way in which the plan works to the

advantage of the spending power of the housewife, I have looked up my own share book, and I find that at the last balancing period, on a very small purchasing capacity of £13 worth of groceries my "dividend" amounts to 15s. 2d. This sum is not income, but the result of co-operating with other housewives in *spending my income to the best advantage.*

It reduces the cost of my household necessities by 1s. 2d. in the £, and I am convinced that if I had run about to every advertised bargain counter in the town, and searched every "cheap" shop I could not have spent to better advantage. The stores is *my own shop*, and I am able by means of my membership vote to influence the methods on which it is conducted. This feature is indeed of the greatest social importance in the co-operative movement, giving to the consumer a control of qualities, prices and conditions of supply, impossible under ordinary commercial systems of trading.

It is the "surplus," or saving on price, which is handed back to the members under the erroneous title of "profit," that the traders wish to see made subject to Income Tax; but every co-operative housewife knows that such an imposition would be absolutely unjust. The Departmental Committee on Income Tax in their report put the true facts in a nutshell. They say :—

"We think it clearly established that, in a society of the Rochdale type, the dealings of the society with its own members do not result in anything which can be treated as 'profits' within the meaning of the present Income Tax Acts, or which could, in fairness, be so treated under any amendment of the law. This 'dividend' is, clearly, not profit, but merely a return to members of sums which they have paid for their goods in excess of the cost price. There can be no doubt that the procedure, which we have described—resulting, as it does, in periodical returns to members—is conducive to thrift, and we see no reason for discouraging it. . . . We do not, therefore, think that any case for alteration of the Income Tax law was made out by the traders' associations; certainly none is required in the interests of the Revenue. Indeed, the particular proposals which have been put before us would not only, on general grounds, be inequitable or impracticable, but also, by reason of the expense they would entail, actually disadvantageous to the Treasury."

As an interesting fact, it may be noted that a very large majority of the membership of industrial co-operative societies are women, the wives of working men, to whom the form of thrift possible in the stores is their only means of saving against the rainy day. It would be worse than a crime, it would be a blunder to subject their small economies to such unfair treatment. Fortunately they are well awake to the rights of their position, and are not likely to submit without resistance.

To sum up, one may put the matter in the following lines :—

Co-operators are liable to Income Tax if their income exceeds £130.

Ninety-four per cent. of co-operators are not liable to Income Tax, because their incomes are below this sum.

Co-operators do not make profit by dealing with each other.

The surplus which they pay for goods over and above the cost price is a saving in spending power, not a commercial profit, or a dividend on capital.

It would be unjust, inequitable, and impracticable to charge with Income Tax the savings of persons who are not individually liable to Income Tax. It is a threat which must and will be resisted.

Co-operators do not ask for any exceptional treatment by way of exemption from assessment to Income Tax to which they may be personally liable, but equally they will not submit to any special treatment which would place upon them, as co-operators, burdens and espionage which, as citizens, they are not called upon to bear.

Catherine Webb.

WOMEN'S MUNICIPAL PARTY.

On October 18th, Mrs. Morris, the Chairman of the Camberwell Advisory Committee, was nominated for co-option to fill a vacancy on Camberwell Borough Council. Although she was nominated by a Municipal Reformer, and seconded by a Progressive, both members of the Council, and had been a Poor Law Guardian for fifteen years, she was not elected. The successful man obtained 23 votes, Mrs. Morris 8. The need of women on the Borough Council of Camberwell is urgent; it is the *only* Metropolitan Borough without a Health Visitor.

At the October meeting of the North Lambeth Civic Association at Alford House, Lambeth Walk, Miss Elsie Hall gave an address on "The Value of the Midwife to the Mothers and their Babies." Mr. Frank Briant also spoke, and the Duchess of Marlborough paid an informal visit. The next meeting of this Civic Association will be held on November 30th, at 3, when Miss Anna Martin will speak on "The Root of Poverty."

Further particulars of the W.M.P. to be obtained from the Secretary, 7, Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, London, W.

At Royaumont.

"George Square" Bed.

The occupant of the "George Square" Bed in the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospital, at Royaumont, gives the following account of his military experiences:—

History of the 72nd Infantry from August 2nd to September 10th, the day on which I received a German bullet, which prevented me from pursuing the fleeing enemy after the Battles of the Marne.

After waiting two days for the formation of the regiment, we were entrained at the Northern Station at Amiens, the town where the 72nd were stationed. Arriving at Dun-sur-Meuse after three days' travelling, we were quartered at Mouzay, where my regiment remained a week—our departure from here was generally hailed with delight, for we were impatient to be face to face with those execrable Bosches—but the moment evidently had not arrived, for we remained another long week at Equeray. But this time saw the last of our waiting about, and on August 22nd, 1914, we penetrated into Belgian territory at Somme Tonne, and took up our position on some heights a few miles from the frontier. We received our baptism of fire August 23rd, and received a few bullets (prunes); but that did not scare us, and, except for a piece of shell that took off a bit of my ear, all went well. The next day, after two attacks which only succeeded in decimating us, we were ordered to retreat, and then began the retreat from Belgium, which we did not understand at all, as we asked for nothing better than to face the enemy.

It was a series of forced marches as far as the Meuse, but there we had the pleasure of making them pay dearly the passage of the Meuse; and after two days of fierce fighting we retreated again—this time to the Marne.

At last we got what we desired—the order to resist to the last man—and, truly, we had had enough of retreating without fighting. After a struggle lasting four days they took the village of Pagny, but, indeed, there were too many of them; and we fought hard with them for Maurapt—five times they took it, and five times they were driven out again. It was there, by the way, that I was wounded. A few hours after my departure French reinforcements arrived, and the Bosches were obliged to retreat in their turn.

There ends the first episode of my notebook, for I went into hospital and remained there five months, and my wound only caused me a waste of time; and I resumed my place in the ranks January 5th, 1915.—Georges Emmenegger, 72nd Infantry. From Karmes, Seine et Oise.

"St. Denis" Bed.

A letter from Louis Belibio, Sergeant, 207th Infantry; baker at St. Germain du-Bel-Air, Lot.

I have had very little education, for just when I should have been learning a few things I was unfortunate enough to lose my poor father, so I was obliged to leave school and begin to earn my living. The idea occurred to me to learn the baker's business. I started very well. After my two years' military service I set up at St. Germain, where I was when war was declared; married, with one child, a son.

I started off on the third day of mobilisation, very glad to go to the war. I went to my recruiting centre, meeting there a great many old friends; we stayed at the depôt until August 9th, 1914, and that evening we entrained at eleven o'clock and travelled by rail until the 12th, when we reached Valmy.

From there we made concentration marches until the 22nd, when we received our baptism of fire. Having reached Bertrye, in Belgium, at 4 p.m. that day, we were given ammunition and sent out to do some skirmishing, and five minutes later our captain fell mortally wounded by a bullet; a lieutenant took command of the company. At 5.30 we received the order to fall back, and were quartered at Herbemont, a small Belgian village. The next day we were told to dig trenches in advance of the village, and at eleven o'clock the same evening we were ordered to abandon the position and to fall back again; and we returned to France towards 5 a.m., and were quartered at Osne from the 24th to the 27th, when the regiment was moved again. We took part in the great Battle of Raucourt, where we were obliged to leave many a good friend. The next day we were forced to retreat until September 5th, when we received the order to turn in semi-circular fashion and to hold on at all costs.

We were then at the Mailly Camp, and the enemy engaged

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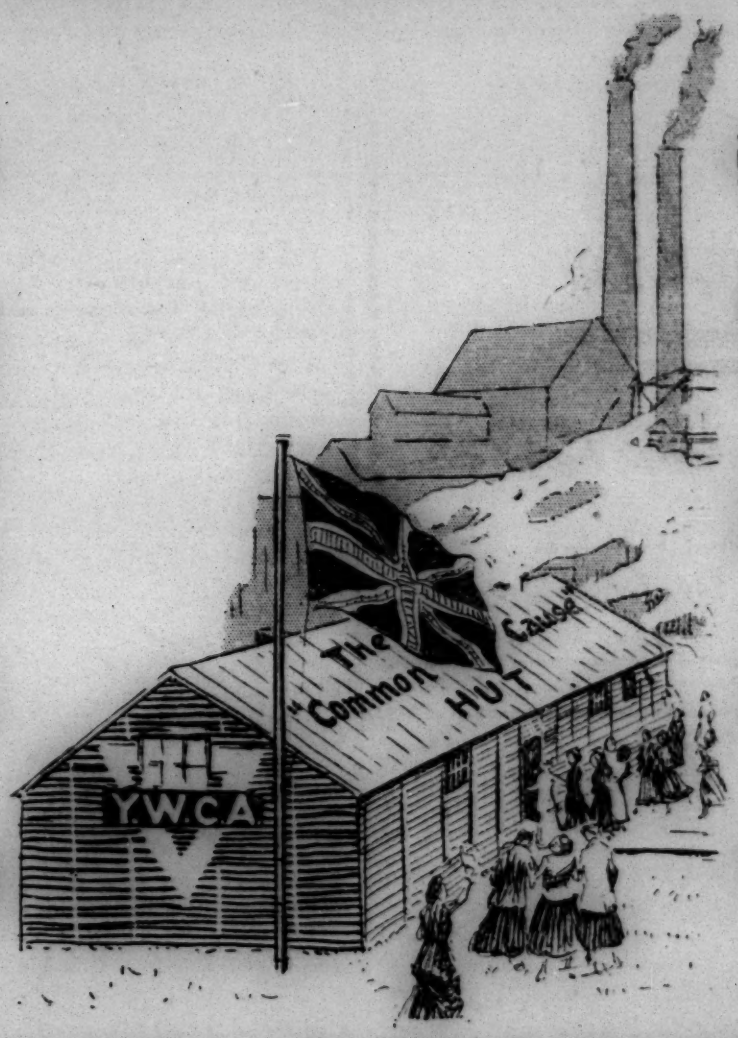

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us next day. . . . The Bosches were only eighty yards from us; we shot them down like flies. Unfortunately, a great many of us were killed also. In the evening two of our officers were missing, the sergeant-major, two other sergeants, and a great many men.

The next day the Bosches retreated. We pursued them until the morning of the 14th, when we arrived at Minaucourt, where the Germans had built trenches and gave us a very warm reception; we remained like that for three days, then the trench war began.

We were given the district of Beau-Séjour, Le Ménil, and Les Hurlus, where we remained quietly until September 26th, when we were attacked by two divisions, and were obliged to evacuate our first lines; but, counter-attacking the same evening, we regained all our positions, and from that day on we were quiet, until December 19th, when we received the order to take the offensive.

On the morning of the 20th our artillery began a heavy bombardment, and at ten o'clock my regiment received the order to attack, and, in spite of the intense fire of the German batteries and the losses they inflicted upon us, we were able to advance 1,500 yards and take possession of a little wood called "Bois de la Vache." In one hour my regiment had five hundred men put out of action. We continued attacking in the same district until March. At the end of March we were relieved so that we could have a month's rest; but after two days a German attack was threatening near St. Mihiel, so we had to go there; but the attack did not come off. Then we went to Bar-le-Duc and remained there about three weeks. One night we were called up suddenly, entrained, and came to the North to make the May attacks at Roclincourt. Later on we took some territory to the right of Arras, whence we attacked September 25th, and where we were still in December, when I fell ill for the first time, and was put on the sick list and sent to the Doullens Hospital, beyond Creil, whence I was sent to Royaumont Hospital, where I still am, well cared for. I declare that the "doctoresses," the nurses, and the orderlies are absolutely devoted to their work and give the patients all possible care.

This is the little history of my life during sixteen months of fighting, without any wounds or a day's illness. "Long live France and England, and all the Allies!"

THE PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS WOMEN'S LEAGUE.

The League was founded to make provision in time of severe sickness for women who earn their living in professional or business callings. Many a worker falls ill while living in a tiny flat or at an hostel, where efficient nursing is hardly to be expected as one of the things included in an all-round, low charge. Or perhaps an operation, of which the fees alone range from ten to a hundred guineas, is deemed essential to the recovery of her precious health. Workers rarely have the necessary money either for surgeons and doctors or for nursing homes, and they are most reluctant to face the publicity of a general ward of a hospital.

To help such women the League is endeavouring to get as many beds as possible in private wards in general hospitals in London, where members can receive the most skilful treatment towards their restoration to health. This scheme has been delayed by the war, but at last it is in working order, and, as it expands, it is to be hoped that it will bring health and a relief from wearying anxiety to many. Already a bed has been secured in the South London Hospital for Women in a beautiful cubicle, large and airy, where the patient is treated as a private patient, and has the room entirely to herself. The highest skill is at her disposal, and, as a member of the League, she is not obliged to pay a farthing for the skill and attention which she receives. But as many business women are quite able to pay a small weekly sum, even if they cannot find large fees, it is hoped, both by the Committee of the League and the Hospital, that patients will do what they can to help the latter, as the sum of £50 per annum paid by the League does not nearly pay the real cost of drugs and upkeep, especially at present. In fact, donations are thankfully received by the Hospital from grateful patients. No one can become a member of the League who is able to pay her way in sickness as in health, but those who are in sympathy are accepted as hon. members and vice-presidents (receiving no benefits). The former pay any subscription which they choose, and the latter are generous donors of £5 and upwards annually. Members of the League pay an annual subscription of 2s. 6d. and upwards.

The work of the League begins where the Insurance Acts leave off. These Acts cannot provide nursing for cases such as pneumonia, appendicitis, cancer, &c., and the sick benefit money is totally inadequate for elaborate treatment.

Will readers of THE COMMON CAUSE who work for their living join the League in thousands, and enable more and more beds to be obtained? And will readers who do not know the sad nightmare of a looming operation, with no means to meet the expenses, come forwarded and subscribe to endow beds? Fifty pounds a year will add another bed for the use of the League's members, and £1,000 will endow one in perpetuity.

So far as finance is concerned, it may be added that the League has been incorporated as a friendly society, and the Public Trustee has consented to act as a Trustee, thus safeguarding the interests of all members and subscribers. All donations and subscriptions should be sent to the Secretary, Miss Mildred Ransom, 195-197, Edgware Road, W., who will furnish all information as to conditions of membership.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS and mention THE COMMON CAUSE when ordering goods.

Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.
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Offices: Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.
Telegraphic Address—Voiceless, London. Telephone—4673 Vic.

The Literature Department has two publications of exceptional interest now in course of preparation. The larger is a Memorandum, showing cause why women should be represented in the Parliament which will be elected to deal with the problems of reconstruction arising out of the war. This contains a report of the work undertaken by women during the war; the opinions and change of opinion of numerous leading statesmen and of the Press; statements on women's work by employers and others; Women's Suffrage in practice; the Parliamentary history of the movement, and other important features. It will be printed on good paper, and will be a convenient size for documentary evidence.

The Memorandum will constitute an invaluable record, and will be indispensable to speakers, writers, and workers. It will be on sale by Monday next. Price 1s., postage 2d. The second publication is a pamphlet with the title "Electoral Reform: The Position of Women." This is a smaller summary of the information dealt with in the Memorandum, and will be ready next week. Price 3d., postage 1d. In addition to these, the Literature Department can now supply the reprint from THE COMMON CAUSE of October 20th: "History from Hansard."

This is a leaflet showing the recent history of Women's Suffrage in the Houses of Parliament, and can be obtained from Headquarters. ½d. each.

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If any contributions remain more than two days unacknowledged, please write at once to the SECRETARY, N.U.W.S.S., 14, Great Smith Street, S.W.

Please address letters containing money either to the SECRETARY, or to Mrs. Auerbach or Miss Sterling by name, *not* to the Treasurer.

[*For List of Contributions to the Millicent Fawcett Hospital Units, see over page.*]

GOOD WISHES FOR A STAUNCH SUPPORTER.

At a meeting held by the Manchester and District Federation, on October 28th, a resolution was passed conveying cordial congratulations and good wishes to Mr. C. P. Scott, editor of *The Manchester Guardian*, on the occasion of his birthday, and expressing gratitude for the unfailing and invaluable support given by him to the great movement for human freedom, with which the National Union of Women's Societies is identified.

LONDON UNITS of
Scottish Women's Hospitals for Foreign Service
(N.U.W.S.S.)

STRAND THEATRE

Mr. MATHESON LANG
In his 1st Night Performance of
"BUXELL" (By RUDOLF BESIER)
On Tuesday, November 7th, at 8 o'clock
(Moonlight)

By kind permission of Mr. Lang the proceeds of this performance are to go to the Scottish Women's Hospitals at present in the **DOBRUDJA, RUMANIA**

TICKETS.

Boxes.	Stalls.	Dress Circle.	Upper Circle.	Pit.	Gallery
£4 13s. £3 10s. £2 6s.	11/6	8/- & 6/6	5/3 & 4/3	2/8	1/2

Obtainable from the Strand Theatre Box Office—Tel.: Gerrard 3830; City 3355; from the usual agents, and from the Office of the London Units, Scottish Women's Hospitals 66, Victoria Street—Tel.: Victoria 4300. Tickets for Gallery and Pit (unreserved) may be obtained in advance only at 66, Victoria Street.

THE WEAVING STUDIOS.

The Problem of Rescue Work is beset by many pitfalls, but in one case at least a happy solution has been found. Early in 1913, a school of hand-weaving was started with the object of developing the artistic powers of girls of the upper and middle classes requiring a fresh start in life.

The Organiser of this school, desiring to co-operate with those engaged in rescue work by offering a new opening to better-class girls, has found by over three years' experience that hand-weaving is specially suited to their needs.

The chief need at present is a Hostel where the weavers may live until they are sufficiently skilled to be financially independent. A suitable house is being sought but Annual Subscriptions to the amount of £450 are urgently needed to maintain such a house which will receive, not only the girls, but also their babies. Inquiries and subscriptions should be addressed to—

Miss SKRINE,
The Weaving Studios,
6, Denmark St., W.C.
or to
The Treasurer,
Mrs. GLYNNE WILLIAMS,
7, Berkeley House, Hay Hill, W.

WOMEN'S SERVICE BUREAU

Advice and Information with regard to possibilities of training for new openings for women in every trade and profession.

Loans and Assistance Scholarships offered to suitable young women desiring training.

Educated women (age between 18 and 35) **Wanted** to take a short inexpensive course of training for **important work** in aeroplane construction.

Full particulars from MISS O. W. ROBINSON, Women's Service Bureau, London Society for Women's Suffrage, 58, Victoria Street, S.W.

A SERIES OF LECTURES
ON
PROBLEMS OF THE UNSEEN WORLD
AT
THE QUEEN'S (small) HALL, Langham Place,
THURSDAYS at 8 p.m.

November 9th. "Dreams." RALPH SHIRLEY (Editor of "Occult Review").
" 16th. "Clairvoyance." ROBERT KING.

For full particulars of Speakers and Subjects of remaining Lectures, address "Lecture Secretary," 19, Tavistock Square, W.C.

ADMISSION FREE.
A few Reserved Seats, 5s. for the course.

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BY
Mrs. NORMAN LEE
"It is a dramatic and didactic novel."—The Bookman
"A most powerful and unconventional story."—Court Journal
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Our Millicent Fawcett Units in Russia.

THIRTY-NINTH LIST.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	8,909	1	9
Leicester and Leicestershire W.S.S.	3	0	0
Miss D. Browne (2nd donation)	1	0	0
West Stanley W.S.S.	17	0	
Hull W.S.S. (Monthly collection for August and September)	2	15	6
War Distress Relief Fund, Constructive Dept., H.M. Dockyard, Devonport, per Plymouth W.S.S.	5	0	0
Royal New Zealand Society for Health of Women and Children, Stratford Branch	5	0	0
Mrs. Samson	1	0	0
Midhurst W.S.S.	5	0	0
Pangbourne W.S.S. (1st instalment)	1	6	9
Oxted and Limpsfield W.S.S. (4th instalment, to adopt a nurse)	14	0	0
Mrs. Auerbach (2nd donation)	15	0	0
Christ's Hospital Ladies' Literary Society—Collection at meeting	2	1	0
Miss H. Fryer (2nd donation)	2	2	0
Horley W.S.S.—Drawing-room meeting	1	10	6
	£8,968	14	6

The Hon. Treasurers gratefully acknowledge £5 from the Royal New Zealand Society for the Health of Women and Children, sent through Miss Mary Rose, of Dunedin, "to assist the N.U.W.S.S. in the splendid work they are doing by sending Hospital Units to Russia. With it we send our heartfelt wishes for their success."

Further donations should be sent to the Countess of Selborne, or to Miss Sterling, N.U.W.S.S., 14, Great Smith Street, London, S.W. Cheques and postal orders to be crossed "London County and Westminster Bank, Victoria Branch."

DONATIONS TO N.U.W.S.S. SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITAL.

	£	s.	d.
Forward as per list to October 19th	135,038	11	1
Further donations received to October 26th:—			
*Hull W.S.S., August and September collections, per Miss Hyde, Hon. Sec.	2	15	6
Per Miss M. Nicolls: Part proceeds of lecture	1	11	0
Miss Meg Wright, for Dr. Inglis' Unit	2	0	0
Mrs. Sydney Rogers	1	0	0
Anon.	9	3	2
*Scottish Teachers' War Fund for War Relief, per Hugh MacCallum, Esq.	100	0	0
*Per Miss Craigie: Jas. Smith, Esq., Clerk, Cluny School Board, "Kossovo Day"	1	11	0
*Per Mrs. Marshall, towards "Madge Neill Fraser" Ambulance for Serbians in Russia (C.U.L.G., per Miss Harvey, £29 6s. 1d.; W.D.A.A.C., £100, per Mayor of Walsall)	215	12	5
Ardgowan Bowling Club, Greenock, per Jas. McAra, Hon. Treas.	3	3	0
Mrs. Blair	10	0	0
*Miss Ellingsen	10	0	0
*Mrs. Ralph Christie	10	0	0
*Mrs. Pilkington, per Miss Pilkington, Hon. Sec., St. Helens W.S.S.	100	0	0
Per Miss Bertha Stainer, Hon. Treas., Nottingham W.S.S.: Miss Annie E. Lovitt (for Serbia)	10	0	
Per Rev. John McNeill—Collected at church door (Serbians)	17	9	
*Per Mrs. Robertson as follows: *Employees Messrs. Boyd & Forrest (£3 9s. 2d.), *Employees Riccarton & Craigie, Goods Station, G. & S.W. Railway., Kilmarnock (11s. 8d.), *Proceeds from balance of waste paper collection (14s. 6d.), Mrs. Broom (£2)	6	5	6
Frances Percy, Esq. (Serbia)	2	2	0
*Miss C. E. Pilkington	200	0	0
Per Miss Kinniple: From sale of flowers (further)	2	11	0
Mrs. Mitchell, for further six months of "Margaret Mitchell" Bed (Salonika)	25	0	0
Alex. Cupples	2	0	0
Collected at Entertainment at Seamill Hydro, West Kilbride, per J. Newbigging, Esq.	3	5	0
Co-op. Women's Guild, Dunfermline, towards "Co-op. Women's Guild" Bed (Dr. Inglis' Unit), per Mrs. Beck	18	6	6
Employees of Fishers, Ltd., per Miss Etta Shankland (for Serbia)	4	4	0
Miss Janie Allan, per Mrs. Jas. T. Hunter	10	0	0
Miss Bunbury, per Mrs. Jas. T. Hunter	2	6	
Miss Frances Alston	2	0	0
Slamannan Co-operative Society, per Miss Bury (per John Rinnie, Esq., Manager)	5	0	0
Miss Anna B. Christall	5	0	0
Miss Isabel Dickson (Dr. Inglis' Unit)	5	0	0
Per James McCosh, Esq.: Dalry Flower Show, per John Begg, Esq., Treas. (£5), Employees of Messrs. Kyle, Aitken, & Gardiner, Ltd., Blanket Makers, (£4 17s. 5d.), Children of Dalry H.G. Public School (£4 12s. 2d.), Employees of Thomas Biggart, Esq., & Co., Ltd. (£3 19s. 4d.), Employees Messrs. Fleming Reid & Co., Ltd. (£3 10s.), Dalry Co-operative Society, Ltd. (£1 1s.), Staff of Dalry H.G. Public School (19s. 9d.), Messrs. John Howie & Co., Dyers, (10s.), Employees of Dalry Co-op. Society, Ltd. (9s.), Employees of Ailsa Oilskin Co. (2s. 3d.)	25	0	11
James C. Johnston, Esq.	5	0	
Wm. Hunter, Esq.	10	0	
Mrs. Hunter	2	0	6
W.P.P., Glasgow	6	3	
*Mrs. Mather, to name "November" Bed (Dr. Bennett's Unit)	50	0	0
*Per Mrs. Dymond, Hon. Treas., West Midland Federation: Proceeds of hop-picking by Mrs. Harmer and Friends, Hereford W.S.S. (Serbia)	3	8	6
*Per Miss Bury: Employees of Messrs. Wm. Spence, Huntly	2	15	3
Hon. Miss J. Channing	2	2	0
*Miss Clara V. Reid (Serbia)	10	0	0
Mrs. Raleigh	1	1	0
Collection from Ardeonig School, "Kossovo Day," per Mrs. Reid (Serbia)	6	0	
Proceeds of Edith Cavell X-Ray Car Tour, Stirling (£18 17s. 4d.), Auchterarder (£18 11s. 7d.), per Mrs. Hally	37	8	11
Edith Cavell X-Ray Car Tour, per David Mitchell, Esq.	30	11	0
Miss Campbell M. Currie	20	0	0
	£135,984	6	9

* Denotes further donations.

Further List of Beds Named.

Name of Bed.	*Donor.*
"Margaret Mitchell" (Salonika) further 6 months	Mrs. Mitchell, Langlees, Biggar.
"November" (Dr. Bennett's Unit)	Mrs. Mather, Abbey View, Kelso.

Mrs. Laurie, Hon. Treasurer, begs once more to thank all those who have helped and are helping, and will gratefully receive further donations to help to carry on the work. Cheques should be sent either to Headquarters, 2, St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh, or to Mrs. Laurie, Red House, Greenock, and crossed "Royal Bank of Scotland."

Mrs. Laurie would again bring before the notice of the many friends of the Hospitals the urgent need for further assistance. The demands upon our resources are very great at the present time. The severe fighting on the Serbian frontier will entail our Units being kept up to their full strength, and the additional beds added to the Girton and Newnham Unit, and the Abbaye de Royaumont mean much larger staffs required.

Motor-cars, ambulances, and lorries are also urgently needed.

Items of Interest.

At the 13th annual meeting of the Bolton Education Society, Mrs. Henry Fawcett, this year's President, said that the war, one of the world's greatest events, had brought us down from the region of shams, conventions, and make-believes, and forced us up against the real thing. The things that divided us before the war were trivial, we now realised, compared with the things that united us. Might we not thank God that what had been revealed to us was, in a large measure, beautiful and precious heroism and devotion of women. We wanted to see the newly developed war-conscience applied to the conditions of peace; to see a greater sense of national duty, a preference for the welfare of the whole to one's own interest and advantage. We wanted to see an England with the old prejudices assuaged, and a better understanding between parties, employers and employed, sex and sex, Nationalist and Unionist. The discovery of the splendid reservoir of labour in women had shattered the anti-feminine movement.

Considerable publicity has been given to a complaint at the Wiltshire War Agricultural Committee that town girls were unsatisfactory as workers on the land, and usually "flighty." This view is refuted by several organisations that have had great experience in placing women on the land. Mrs. Roland Wilkins, of the Women's Land Service Corps, states that if a wise selection is made among town girls they do better than girls from country districts.

"We make a point," she says, "of carefully selecting our recruits, and impressing upon them beforehand what they are expected to do. Only 2 per cent. of our girls fail to make good."

The experience of the National Land Council is that farmers prefer town girls (provided, of course, that these are properly selected, not chosen haphazard). Lady Margaret Boscawen, Secretary of the Middlesex Women's War Agricultural Committee, states that in her district town-bred women have proved a great success. The rate of pay and the kind of accommodation offered no doubt make a great deal of difference.

What Some of our Societies are Doing.

Bristol Report.

On September 26th the first branch meeting of the St. Paul's district was held at St. Agnes Vicarage, when Mrs. Cross gave a review of the Suffrage situation, and future work was arranged.

On October 20th, a public meeting was held at Hamilton's Rooms, when Mr. Athelstan Rendall, M.P., gave a most interesting address on "The Present Suffrage Situation." The chair was taken by Mrs. Green-Armytage, and supported by Mr. and Mrs. W. C. H. Cross, Mrs. Randall Vickers, Mrs. Ernest Mardon, Mrs. Harold Hicks, and Mrs. R. Talbot. In spite of the darkness of the streets, there was a very good attendance.

The Chairman pointed out that when the war was over the difficulties of reconstruction would be enormous, and it was of vital importance that women should have a voice in that reconstruction. The present situation was hopeful, but the Society was anxious to know what was its position and what amount of backing up they might expect from the House of Commons.

Mr. Athelstan Rendall, who was given a hearty reception, said that Women's Suffrage was still awaiting developments in its position, but the position in which it now stood was a better one than that which obtained only a little while ago. He reviewed the economic conditions since 1914, showing how women were employed in every trade and profession, with the exception of the Church and the Law, and spoke of the loss which the latter had sustained through its obstinate refusal to recognise the claims of women who had passed the test of examination. The speaker wished to make it plain that that particular meeting was not one of propaganda, but one for the purpose of presenting to his hearers the present Suffrage position. He moved the following resolution: "That this meeting thanks the Prime Minister for his statement in the House of Commons on August 14th that women have an unanswerable claim to be consulted upon the many questions of industrial reconstruction directly affecting their interests which are bound to arise after the war, and looks to him to promote legislation which shall secure them this right."

Mr. W. C. H. Cross, in seconding the resolution, remarked that women had not done national work in order to get the vote, but they had shown that they were capable of doing valuable work when their rights should at last be accorded to them.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Mrs. Randall Vickers, in a racy little speech, proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Rendall, and mentioned that England was behind India in the fact that there was to be found a woman lawyer.

Mrs. Harold Hicks seconded, and Mrs. Cross, in supporting, said that the National Union owed Mr. Rendall great gratitude for his splendid unceasing support of the women's cause outside and inside the House.

It was an earnest and inspiriting meeting, and closed with a strong feeling of hopefulness, together with a realisation of the great need of continuous effort and watchfulness.

Working Parties for the Scottish Hospitals are held every Wednesday at the Office, and last month a large parcel of hospital clothing was sent to Edinburgh.

As the funds of the Bristol Society are very low, and its borders extend over four constituencies, making it expensive to work, the Committee has decided to hold a sale in Hamilton's Rooms at the end of November. Gifts of cakes, produce, fancy and second-hand articles will be gratefully received.

FOR GIFTS.

You cannot give a more ACCEPTABLE GIFT than a "COMMON CAUSE" FOUNTAIN PEN. Non-leakable, can be carried in any position. Solid 14-carat gold nib. Packed in N.U. colors. Apply, sending P.O. for 5/8 (2d. being for postage), to the Manager, "Common Cause," 14, Great Smith Street, S.W. (State whether fine, medium, or broad nib required.)

North Cowal (Blairmore) N.U.W.S. Society held a very successful jumble sale in aid of the Scottish Women's Hospital, the sum raised being £38.

Oxon, Berks and Bucks Federation.

Ascot.—In response to the request from headquarters, a rummage sale was held in Ascot on October 11th in aid of the expenses of maintenance of the N.U.W.S.S., necessarily suffering from the amount of work and money which members are giving directly to the country. As the proceeds were for Women's Suffrage, pure and simple, those asked for help "were members only" or decided sympathisers. Notwithstanding this limitation, the sale was as successful as those held for general purposes have always been. A sum of £12 was sent to headquarters as Ascot's contribution. The Society's work-parties, commenced in August, 1914, continue "merrily" twice a week, and produce a large output of work which goes to Ascot War Supply Depôt to the Scottish Women's Hospitals. The Annual Christmas Sale for the benefit of the hospitals will take place in December.

Forthcoming Meetings.

Societies are urged to take advantage of Mrs. Elborough's return from Russia, with her most interesting accounts of our work there, to arrange meetings for her **before Christmas,** when she will probably be returning to Russia. **Write immediately to Headquarters.**

NOVEMBER 3.

Edinburgh — 40, Shandwick Place — "At Home" 4.30 p.m.
Johnstone—Meeting at Craigiulle—Chair: Mrs. Cunningham—Speaker: Lady Frances Balfour—Also Bring and Buy Sale 3.0

NOVEMBER 6.

Manchester—Hulme Suffrage Club, Temperance Hall, York Street—Speaker: Mrs. Annot Robinson 8.0
Birmingham—Bradford Street—Meeting—Miss Millicent Sturge 3.0

NOVEMBER 7.

Birmingham—Bordesley Women's Liberal Association—Mrs. Lofthouse 3.30
Birmingham—Castle Bromwich—Mrs. Ring 7.30
Birmingham—Handsworth Maternity Centre—Mrs. Albright 3.45
Edinburgh—St. Cuthbert's Co-operative Guild, Merchiston Rooms—Speaker: Miss Alice Low—Subject: Scottish Women's Hospitals (Lantern lecture) 7.0

NOVEMBER 8.

Birkenhead—Women's Guild, Randle Hall, Rock Ferry—Speaker: Miss Wyse, on the Scottish Women's Hospitals 3.0
Blackhall—Church Hall—Speaker: Miss Alice Low—Subject: Scottish Women's Hospitals 7.30
Motherwell—Council House—Chair: Lady Hamilton of Dalzell—Speaker: Lady Frances Balfour 3.0
South Kensington—London Units' Scottish Women's Hospitals—Drawing-room Meeting—38, Cornwall Gardens, S.W.—Hostess: Mrs. David Waterlow—Chair: Mrs. David Waterlow—Speakers: Mrs. Herbert Druce, Mrs. Robie Uniacke 8.30
New Milton—New Forest Members' Meeting—Speaker: Miss Geraldine Cooke, on the Present Position of the Suffrage Question—Chair: Rev. J. E. Kelsall 3.0
Tunbridge Wells—Public Meeting, Town Hall—Speaker: Mrs. Fawcett, on the Status of Women as Affected by the War—Chair: Mde. Sarah Grand 3.0

NOVEMBER 9.

Ramsgate—Public Meeting—Speaker: Mrs. Fawcett 3.15
West Bromwich—Annual Meeting—Speaker: Miss K. A. Hessell—Subject: The Partnership of Men and Women in the Home and in the Nation
Sevenoaks—Public Meeting at the Lime Tree Hotel—Speaker: Miss Beatrice Hunter, in aid of Scottish Women's Hospitals 8.15

NOVEMBER 10.

Ayr—Meeting, Town House—Speaker: Lady Frances Balfour 3.0

NOVEMBER 11.

Oldham—Annual Meeting, in the Music Room, Werneth Park—Speaker: Miss Edith Place 3.0

NOVEMBER 13.

Newton Stewart—Meeting—Speaker: Lady Frances Balfour 3.0
Scarborough—War Economy Exhibition, Lectures, and Demonstrations—Ashley's Boarding House—Afternoon Tea 2.30 and 7.0

NOVEMBER 14.

Barnsley—Bring and Buy Sale, Fairfield's House—Speaker: Miss I. O. Ford 3.0

Members and friends are cordially invited to attend any of these meetings without special invitation.

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Nurses' Aprons, round and square bib, gored or gathered, with Red Cross or without, 1/11, 2/6, 2/11 each.
Nurses' Ambulance Overalls, 6/6 each.
Nurses' Collars, 5½d, 6½d, 7½d. **Cuffs,** 6½d, 8½d.
Nurses' Strings, 2½ inches wide, 8½d, 10½d, 1/- pair.
Nurses' Sister Dora Caps, 8½d, 10½d, 1/- each.
Household and **Fancy** Linens in great variety.
500 dozen Ladies' Linen H.S. Handkerchiefs, 2/6 half-dozen.

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PERSONAL.

Lady giving up house, would lend beautiful Pekingese to kind home as pet till spring. References.—Write Box 6,184, Common Cause Office.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

International Women's Franchise Club, 9, Grafton-street, Piccadilly, W. November 8th, 8 p.m. "The Khaki Woman," by Mrs. Charles Beatty (Commandant, W.R.A. Green Cross Society). Chairman, H.H. The Ranee of Sarawak.

Public Meeting of Suffragettes of the W.S.P.U., at Essex Hall, Essex-street, Strand, Wednesday, November 8th, 1916, 7 p.m. Speaker, MR. LAURENCE HOUSMAN: "The War and Votes for Women." Chair, Mrs. Lamartine Yates. Admission Free.

The New Constitutional Society for Women Suffrage.—Public Meeting in the N.C.S. Hall, Park Mansions' Arcade, Knightsbridge, S.W., on Tuesday, November 7th—"The Soldier's Child," by Miss Margaret Douglas. Admission Free.

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WAR SERVICE FOR WOMEN.

WANTED,
Strong, Capable, Educated Women,
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to take the place of men who are doing War Work.
Apply—
WOMEN'S FARM & GARDEN UNION
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POSITIONS VACANT.

Wanted, capable young gentlewoman as housekeeper in boarding-house; must be used to management of maids and have knowledge of cookery in case of emergency.—Apply Box 6,191, Common Cause Office.

Wanted, for Women's Settlement, Lady Housekeeper, used to catering and supervision.—Apply Warden, 319, Summer-lane, Birmingham.

Wanted.—Lady Housemaid, for country house where lady servants kept.—Box 6,143, Common Cause Office.

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COURSE OF SIX LESSONS, 5s.

[Continued on page 384.

Continued from page 383.

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